

# Isotopic classes of Transversals

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## Abstract

Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . In this paper, we prove that if  $G$  is a finite nilpotent group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ , then  $H$  is normal in  $G$  if and only if all normalized right transversals of  $H$  in  $G$  are isotopic, where the isotopism classes are formed with respect to induced right loop structures. We have also determined the number isotopy classes of transversals of a subgroup of order 2 in  $D_{2p}$ , the dihedral group of order  $2p$ , where  $p$  is an odd prime.

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . A *normalized right transversal (NRT)*  $S$  of  $H$  in  $G$  is a subset of  $G$  obtained by choosing one and only one element from each right coset of  $H$  in  $G$  and  $1 \in S$ . Then  $S$  has a induced binary operation  $\circ$  given by  $\{x \circ y\} = Hxy \cap S$ , with respect to which  $S$  is a right loop with identity 1, that is, a right quasigroup with both sided identity (see [11, Proposition 4.3.3, p.102],[8]). Conversely, every right loop can be embedded as an NRT in a group with some universal property (see [8, Theorem 3.4, p.76]). Let  $\langle S \rangle$  be the subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $S$  and  $H_S$  be the subgroup  $\langle S \rangle \cap H$ . Then  $H_S = \langle \{xy(x \circ y)^{-1} | x, y \in S\} \rangle$  and  $H_S S = \langle S \rangle$

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(see [8]). Identifying  $S$  with the set  $H \backslash G$  of all right cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ , we get a transitive permutation representation  $\chi_S : G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(S)$  defined by  $\{\chi_S(g)(x)\} = Hxg \cap S, g \in G, x \in S$ . The kernel  $\text{Ker}\chi_S$  of this action is  $\text{Core}_G(H)$ , the core of  $H$  in  $G$ .

Let  $G_S = \chi_S(H_S)$ . This group is known as the *group torsion* of the right loop  $S$  (see [8, Definition 3.1, p.75]). The group  $G_S$  depends only on the right loop structure  $\circ$  on  $S$  and not on the subgroup  $H$ . Since  $\chi_S$  is injective on  $S$  and if we identify  $S$  with  $\chi_S(S)$ , then  $\chi_S(\langle S \rangle) = G_S S$  which also depends only on the right loop  $S$  and  $S$  is an NRT of  $G_S$  in  $G_S S$ . One can also verify that  $\text{Ker}(\chi_S|_{H_S S} : H_S S \rightarrow G_S S) = \text{Ker}(\chi_S|_{H_S} : H_S \rightarrow G_S) = \text{Core}_{H_S S}(H_S)$  and  $\chi_S|_S = \text{the identity map on } S$ . Also  $(S, \circ)$  is a group if and only if  $G_S$  is trivial.

Two groupoids  $(S, \circ)$  and  $(S', \circ')$  are said to be *isotopic* if there exists a triple  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  of bijective maps from  $S$  to  $S'$  such that  $\alpha(x) \circ' \beta(x) = \gamma(x \circ y)$ . Such a triple  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  is known as an isotopism or isotopy between  $(S, \circ)$  and  $(S', \circ')$ . We note that if  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  is an isotopy between  $(S, \circ)$  and  $(S', \circ')$  and if  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma$ , then it is an isomorphism. An *autotopy* (resp. *automorphism*) on  $S$  is an isotopy (resp. isomorphism) from  $S$  to itself. Let  $\mathcal{U}(S)$  (resp.  $\text{Aut}(S)$ ) denote the group of all autotopies (resp. automorphisms) on  $S$ . Two groupoids  $(S, \circ)$  and  $(S, \circ')$ , defined on same set  $S$ , are said to be *principal isotopes* if  $(\alpha, \beta, I)$  is an isotopy between  $(S, \circ)$  and  $(S, \circ')$ , where  $I$  is the identity map on  $S$  (see [2, p. 248]). Let  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$  denote the set of all normalized right transversals (NRTs) of  $H$  in  $G$ . In next section, we will investigate the isotopism property in  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$ . We say that  $S, T \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  are isotopic, if their induced right loop structures are isotopic. Let  $\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)$  denote the set of isotopism classes of NRTs of  $H$  in  $G$ . If  $H \trianglelefteq G$ , then each NRT  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  is isomorphic to the quotient group  $G/H$ . Thus  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ . We feel that the converse of the above statement should also be true. In next section, we will prove that if  $G$  is a finite nilpotent group and  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ , then  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .

In sections 2 and 3, we discuss isotopy classes of transversals in some particular groups. The main results of section 3 are Proposition 2.8 and Theorem 2.14. The main results of Section 4 are Theorem 3.7 and Theorem 3.9, which describe the isotopy classes of transversals of a subgroup of order 2 in  $D_{2p}$ , the dihedral group of order  $2p$ , where  $p$  is an odd prime.

## 2 Isotopy in $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$

Let  $(S, \circ)$  be a right loop. For  $x \in S$ , we denote the map  $y \mapsto y \circ x$  ( $y \in S$ ) by  $R_x^\circ$ . Let  $a \in S$  such that the equation  $a \circ X = c$  has unique solution for all  $c \in S$ , in notation we write it as  $X = a \backslash_\circ c$ . Then the map  $L_a^\circ : S \rightarrow S$  defined by  $L_a^\circ(x) = a \circ x$  is bijective map. Such an element  $a$  is called a *left non-singular* element of  $S$ . We will drop the superscript, if the binary operation is clear. It is observed in [2, Theorem 1A, p.249] that  $(S, \circ')$  is a principal isotope of  $(S, \circ)$ , where  $x \circ' y = (R_b^\circ)^{-1}(x) \circ (L_a^\circ)^{-1}(y)$  under the isotopy  $((R_b^\circ)^{-1}, (L_a^\circ)^{-1}, I)$  from  $(S, \circ')$  to  $(S, \circ)$  and every principal isotope is of this form. Let us denote this isotope by  $S_{a,b}$ . It is also observed in [2, Lemma 1A, p.248] that if right loop  $(S_1, \circ_1)$  is isotopic to the right loop  $(S_2, \circ_2)$ , then  $(S_2, \circ_2)$  is isomorphic to  $(S_1, \circ')$ , the principal isotope of  $(S_1, \circ_1)$  defined above. Write the equation  $x \circ' y = (R_b^\circ)^{-1}(x) \circ (L_a^\circ)^{-1}(y)$  by  $R_y^{\circ'}(x) = R_{(L_a^\circ)^{-1}(y)}^\circ((R_b^\circ)^{-1}(x))$ . This means that if  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are isotopic right loops, then  $G_{S_1}S_1 \cong G_{S_2}S_2$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $(S, \circ)$  and  $(S', \circ')$  be isotopic right loops. Then the set of left non-singular elements of  $S$  is in bijective correspondence to that of  $S'$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  be an isotopy from  $(S, \circ)$  to  $(S', \circ')$ . Let  $a \in S$  such that  $\alpha(a)$  is a left non-singular element of  $S'$ . We will show that  $a$  is left non-singular in  $S$ . Consider the equation  $a \circ X = b$ , where  $b \in S$ . Let  $\gamma(b) = c \in S'$ . Choose  $y \in S$  such that  $\beta(y) = \alpha(a) \backslash_{\circ'} c$ . Then  $\alpha(a) \backslash_{\circ'} c$  is the unique solution of the equation  $\alpha(a) \circ' Y = c$ . Now, it is easy to check that  $\beta^{-1}(\alpha(a) \backslash_{\circ'} c)$  is the unique solution of  $a \circ X = b$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.** *A right loop isotopic to a loop itself is a loop.*

Let  $A = \{a_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  and  $B = \{b_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  be sets. We denote the bijective map  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  defined by  $\alpha(a_i) = b_i$  as  $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \\ b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Example 2.3.** *Let  $G = \text{Sym}(3)$  and  $H = \{I, (2, 3)\}$ , where  $I$  is the identity permutation. In this example, we show that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 2$ . In this case,  $S_1 = \{I, (1, 2, 3), (1, 3, 2)\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{I, (1, 3), (1, 3, 2)\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{I, (1, 3), (1, 2)\}$  and  $S_4 = \{I, (1, 2, 3), (1, 2)\}$  are all NRTs of  $H$  in  $G$ . Since  $S_1$  is loop transversal, by Corollary 2.2 it is not isotopic to  $S_i$  ( $2 \leq i \leq 4$ ). The restriction of  $i_{(2,3)}$ , the inner conjugation of  $G$  by  $(2, 3)$ , on  $S_2$  is right loop*

isomorphism from  $S_2$  to  $S_4$ . One can easily see that  $\alpha = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, (1,3), (1,3,2) \\ I, (1,2), (1,3) \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ ,  $\beta = \gamma = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, (1,3), (1,3,2) \\ (1,2), I, (1,3) \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  is an isotopy from  $S_2$  to  $S_3$ . This means that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 2$ .

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $N = \text{Core}_G(H)$ . Then  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = |\mathcal{Itp}(G/N, H/N)|$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$ . Clearly  $S \mapsto \nu(S) = \{Nx \mid x \in S\}$ , where  $\nu$  is the quotient map from  $G$  to  $G/N$ , is a surjective map from  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$  to  $\mathcal{T}(G/N, H/N)$  such that the corresponding NRTs are isomorphic.

Let  $S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$ . Let  $\delta_1 : S_1 \rightarrow \nu(S_1)$  and  $\delta_2 : S_2 \rightarrow \nu(S_2)$  be isomorphisms defined by  $\delta_i(x) = xN$  ( $x \in S_i, i = 1, 2$ ). Assume that  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  is an isotopy from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$ . Then  $(\delta_2 \alpha \delta_1^{-1}, \delta_2 \beta \delta_1^{-1}, \delta_2 \gamma \delta_1^{-1})$  is an isotopy from  $\nu(S_1)$  to  $\nu(S_2)$ . Conversely, if  $(\alpha', \beta', \gamma')$  is an isotopy from  $\nu(S_1)$  to  $\nu(S_2)$ , then  $(\delta_2^{-1} \alpha' \delta_1, \delta_2^{-1} \beta' \delta_1, \delta_2^{-1} \gamma' \delta_1)$  is an isotopy from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$ . Thus  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = |\mathcal{Itp}(G/N, H/N)|$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.5.** *Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  be a non-normal subgroup of  $G$  of index 3. Then by Proposition 2.4 and Example 2.3,  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 2$ . The converse of this is false, as we have following example.*

**Example 2.6.** *Let  $G = \text{Alt}(4)$ , the alternating group of degree 4 and  $H = \{I, x = (1, 2)(3, 4)\}$ . In [7, Lemma 2.7, p. 6], we have found that the number of isomorphism classes of NRTs in  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$  is five whose representatives are given by  $S_1 = \{I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, yz, y\}$ ,  $S_2 = (S_1 \setminus \{yz\}) \cup \{xyz\}$ ,  $S_3 = (S_1 \setminus \{yz, yz^{-1}\}) \cup \{xyz, xyz^{-1}\}$ ,  $S_4 = (S_1 \setminus \{yz^{-1}\}) \cup \{xyz^{-1}\}$  and  $S_5 = (S_1 \setminus \{z\}) \cup \{xz\}$ , where  $z = (1, 2, 3)$  and  $y = (1, 3)(2, 4)$ . We note that  $S_1$  is not isotopic to  $S_i$  ( $2 \leq i \leq 5$ ), for left non-singular elements of  $S_1$  are  $I, y$  and  $z$  but  $I, y$  are those of  $S_i$  ( $2 \leq i \leq 5$ ) (see Proposition 2.1). It can be checked that  $(\alpha_2^j, \beta_2^j, \gamma_2^j)$  ( $3 \leq j \leq 5$ ) where  $\alpha_2^3 = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, xyz, y \\ I, z^{-1}, xyz, z, xyz, y \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ ,  $\beta_2^3 = \gamma_2^3 = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, xyz, y \\ z, I, xyz^{-1}, z^{-1}, y, xyz \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ ;  $\alpha_2^4 = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, xyz, y \\ I, yz, z^{-1}, xyz^{-1}, z, y \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ ,  $\beta_2^4 = \gamma_2^4 = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, xyz, y \\ yz, xyz^{-1}, y, I, z^{-1}, z \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  and  $\alpha_2^5 = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, xyz, y \\ I, z, xz^{-1}, yz^{-1}, yz, y \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ ,  $\beta_2^5 = \gamma_2^5 = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} I, z, yz^{-1}, z^{-1}, xyz, y \\ z, xz^{-1}, I, y, yz^{-1}, yz \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  is an isotopy from  $S_2$  to  $S_j$ .*

**Proposition 2.7.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H$  be a corefree subgroup of  $G$  such that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ . Then*

(i) *no  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  is a loop transversal.*

(ii)  $\langle S \rangle = G$  for all  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$ .

*Proof.* (i) If possible, assume that  $T \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  is a loop transversal. Then by Corollary 2.2, each  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  is a loop transversal. By [8, Corollary 2.9, p.74],  $H \trianglelefteq G$ . This is a contradiction.

(ii) Since  $\text{Core}_G(H) = \{1\}$ , by [3], there exists  $T \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  such that  $\langle T \rangle = G$ . This implies  $G_T T \cong \langle T \rangle = G$ . By the discussion in the second paragraph of this section,  $\langle S \rangle = G$  for all  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$ .  $\square$

Let us recall from [?, Introduction, p. 277] that a *free global transversal*  $S$  of a subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  is an NRT for all conjugates of  $H$  in  $G$ . We see from [11, Proposition 4.3.6, p. 103] that a free global transversal is a loop transversal. We now have following:

**Proposition 2.8.** *Let  $G$  be a finite nilpotent group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  such that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ . Then  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $N = \text{Core}_G(H)$ . By Proposition 2.4,  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G/N, H/N)| = 1$ . Now by [?, Theorem B, p. 284], there exists a loop transversal of  $H/N$  in  $G/N$ . This means that each  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  is a loop transversal (Corollary 2.2). Thus  $H/N \trianglelefteq G/N$  ([8, Corollary 2.9, p.74]) and so  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.9.** *Let  $G$  be a finite solvable group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Suppose that the greatest common divisor  $(|H|, [G : H]) = 1$ . Then if  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ , then  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\pi$  be the set of primes dividing  $|H|$ . Let  $S$  be a Hall  $\pi'$ -subgroup of  $G$ . Then  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$ . Suppose that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ . Then by Corollary 2.2 all members of  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$  are loops. Hence by [8, Corollary 2.9, p.74],  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.10.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $|G|$  is a square-free number. Let  $|H|$  be a subgroup of  $G$  such that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1$ . Then  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $|G|$  is a square-free number,  $G$  is solvable group ([10, Corollary 7.54, p. 197]). Now, the corollary follows from the Proposition 2.9.  $\square$

Let  $(S, \circ)$  be a right loop. A permutation  $\eta : S \rightarrow S$  is called a *right pseudo-automorphism* (resp. *left pseudo-automorphism*) if there exists  $c \in S$  (resp. left non-singular element  $c \in S$ ) such that  $\eta(x \circ y) \circ c = \eta(x) \circ (\eta(y) \circ c)$  (resp.  $c \circ \eta(x \circ y) = (c \circ \eta(x)) \circ \eta(y)$ ) for all  $x, y \in S$ . The element  $c \in S$  is called as *companion* of  $\eta$ . By the same argument following [5, Lemma 1, p. 215], we record following proposition:

**Proposition 2.11.** *Let  $(S, \circ)$  be a right loop. A permutation  $\eta : S \rightarrow S$  is right pseudo-automorphism (resp. left pseudo-automorphism) with companion  $c$  if and only if  $(\eta, R_c\eta, R_c\eta)$  (resp.  $(L_c\eta, \eta, L_c\eta)$ ) is an autotopy of  $S$ . Moreover, if  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  is an autotopy on  $S$ , then  $\alpha(1) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \beta = \gamma \Leftrightarrow \alpha$  is a right pseudo-automorphism with companion  $\beta(1)$  (resp.  $\beta(1) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \alpha = \gamma \Leftrightarrow \beta$  is a left pseudo-automorphism with companion  $\alpha(1)$ ).*

Let  $S$  be a right loop. Denote  $A_1(S) = \{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \in \mathcal{U}(S) | \alpha(1) = 1\}$  and  $A_2(S) = \{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \in \mathcal{U}(S) | \beta(1) = 1\}$ . It can be checked that  $A_1(S)$  and  $A_2(S)$  are subgroups of  $\mathcal{U}(S)$  and  $A_1(S) \cap A_2(S) = \text{Aut}(S)$ . Since by Proposition 2.1, the left non-singular elements are in bijection for two isotopic right loops, we obtain that [5, Lemma 3, p. 217], [5, Lemma 6, p. 219] and [5, Lemma 8, p. 219] are also true in the case of right loops and can be proved by the same argument used there. Therefore, we also have following extensions of [5, Corollary 7, p. 219] and [5, Corollary 9, p. 220] respectively:

**Proposition 2.12.** *Let  $S$  be a right loop with transitive automorphism group. Then for  $i = 1, 2$  either  $A_i(S) = \text{Aut}(S)$  or the right cosets of  $\text{Aut}(S)$  in  $A_1(S)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the elements of  $S$  and the right cosets of  $\text{Aut}(S)$  in  $A_2(S)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the left non-singular elements of  $S$ .*

**Proposition 2.13.** *Let  $S$  be a right loop with transitive automorphism group. Then for  $i = 1, 2$  either  $\mathcal{U}(S) = A_i(S)$  or the right cosets of  $A_2(S)$  in  $\mathcal{U}(S)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the elements of  $S$  and the right cosets of  $A_1(S)$  in  $\mathcal{U}(S)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the left non-singular elements of  $S$ .*

Now, we have

**Theorem 2.14.** *Any two isotopic right loops with transitive automorphism groups are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* Let  $(S, \circ)$  be a right loop with transitive automorphism group. Then as remarked in the paragraph 2 of the Section 3, it is enough to prove that, if  $a \in S$  is a left non-singular element,  $b \in S$  and if  $S_{a,b}$  has the transitive automorphism group, then  $S \cong S_{a,b}$ . So fix  $a, b \in S$ , where  $a$  is a left non-singular element of  $S$ . Let  $|S| = n$  and  $m$  be the number of left non-singular elements in  $S$ . In view of Proposition 2.12 and 2.13, we need to consider the following six cases:

**Case 1.**  $[\mathcal{U}(S) : A_1(S)] = 1 = [\mathcal{U}(S) : A_2(S)]$ ,

**Case 2.**  $[\mathcal{U}(S) : A_1(S)] = m, [\mathcal{U}(S) : A_2(S)] = n, [A_1 : \text{Aut}(S)] = 1 = [A_2 : \text{Aut}(S)]$ ,

**Case 3.**  $[\mathcal{U}(S) : A_1(S)] = m, [\mathcal{U}(S) : A_2(S)] = n, [A_1(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = n, [A_2(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = m$ ,

**Case 4.**  $[\mathcal{U}(S) : A_1(S)] = 1, [\mathcal{U}(S) : A_2(S)] = n, [A_1(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = n, [A_2(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = 1$ ,

**Case 5.**  $[\mathcal{U}(S) : A_1(S)] = m, [\mathcal{U}(S) : A_2(S)] = 1, [A_1(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = 1, [A_2(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = m$  and

**Case 6.**  $[\mathcal{U}(S) : A_1(S)] = m, [\mathcal{U}(S) : A_2(S)] = 1, [A_1(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = 1, [A_2(S) : \text{Aut}(S)] = m$ .

In each case, the proof is similar to the proof of the corresponding case of [5, Theorem 10, p. 220].  $\square$

Let us now conclude the section by posing some questions:

**Question 2.15.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Does  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = 1 \Rightarrow H \trianglelefteq G$ ?*

**Question 2.16.** *What are the pairs  $(G, H)$ , where  $G$  is a group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$  for which  $|\mathcal{Itp}(G, H)| = |\mathcal{I}(G, H)|$ , where  $|\mathcal{I}(G, H)|$  denotes the isomorphism classes in  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$ ?*

**Question 2.17.** *What are the pairs  $(G, H)$ , where  $G$  is a group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$  such that whenever two NRTs in  $\mathcal{T}(G, H)$  are isotopic, they are isomorphic?*

By Proposition 2.14, we have one answer to the question 3.19 that is the pair  $(G, H)$  such that each  $S \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  has transitive automorphism group.

### 3 Left non-singular elements in Transversals

The aim of this section is to describe the number of isotopy classes of transversals of a subgroup of order 2 in  $D_{2p}$ , the dihedral group of order  $2p$ , where  $p$  is an odd prime.

Let  $U$  be a group. Let  $e$  denote the identity of the group  $U$ . Let  $B \subseteq U \setminus \{e\}$  and  $\varphi \in \text{Sym}(U)$  such that  $\varphi(e) = e$ . Define an operation  $\circ$  on the set  $U$  as

$$x \circ y = \begin{cases} xy & \text{if } y \notin B \\ y\varphi(x) & \text{if } y \in B \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

It can be checked that  $(U, \circ)$  is a right loop. Let us denote this right loop as  $U_\varphi^B$ . If  $B = \emptyset$ , then  $U_\varphi^B$  is the group  $U$  itself. If  $\varphi$  is fixed, then we will drop the subscript  $\varphi$ . Let  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  denote the cyclic group of order  $n$ . Define a map  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$  by  $\varphi(i) = -i$ , where  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . Note that  $\varphi$  is a bijection on  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Let  $\emptyset \neq B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$ . We denote  $\mathbb{Z}_{n,\varphi}^B$  by  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$ . Following lemma describes left non-singular elements in the right loop  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$  ( $n$  odd) and  $\emptyset \neq B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $i$  is not a left non-singular in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$  if and only if the equation  $X - Y \equiv i(\text{mod } n)$  has a solution in  $B \times B'$ , where  $X$  and  $Y$  are unknowns and  $B' = \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus B$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\circ$  denote the binary operation of  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$ . Let  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n^B$  such that  $i$  is not a left non-singular element. Then for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_n^B$  such that  $x \neq y$ ,  $i \circ x = i \circ y$ . We note that if  $x, y \in B$  or  $x, y \in B'$ , then  $i \circ x = i \circ y \Rightarrow x = y$ . Therefore, we can assume that  $x \in B$  and  $y \in B'$ . This means that  $x - y \equiv 2i(\text{mod } n)$ . Since  $j \mapsto 2j$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ ) is a bijection on  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ ,  $x - y \equiv i(\text{mod } n)$ . Thus  $X - Y \equiv i(\text{mod } n)$  has a solution in  $B \times B'$ .

Conversely, assume that  $X - Y \equiv i(\text{mod } n)$  has a solution in  $B \times B'$ . Which equivalently implies that,  $X - Y \equiv 2i(\text{mod } n)$  has a solution in  $B \times B'$ . This means that there exists  $(x, y) \in B \times B'$  such that  $i \circ x = i \circ y$ . Thus,  $i$  is not a left non-singular element in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$ .  $\square$



**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be odd. Then  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n^B$  is a left non-singular if and only if  $B$  and  $B'$  are unions of cosets of the subgroup  $\langle i \rangle$  of the group  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . In particular,  $i \notin B$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$  is a left non-singular element. By Lemma 3.1, for no  $k \in B'$ ,  $i + k \in B$ . This means that  $B' = \{i + k | k \in B'\}$ . This implies that  $\langle i \rangle \subseteq B'$ . Therefore,  $B' = \cup_{k \in B'}(k + \langle i \rangle)$ . As  $B \cap B' = \emptyset$ ,  $B = \cup_{k \in B}(k + \langle i \rangle)$ .

For the converse, we observe that  $B' = \cup_{k \in B'}(k + \langle i \rangle)$  implies that for each  $k \in B'$ ,  $i + k \notin B$ . Thus by Lemma 3.1,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$  is a left non-singular element.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.3.** *If  $n$  is an odd prime and  $\emptyset \neq B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $0 \in \mathbb{Z}_n^B$  is the only left non-singular element.*

By the similar argument above, we can record following proposition for even integer  $n$ .

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$  ( $n$  even) and  $\emptyset \neq B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_n^B$  is a left non-singular if and only if  $B$  and  $B'$  are unions of cosets of the subgroup  $\langle 2i \rangle$  of the group  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . In particular,  $2i \notin B$ .*

Let  $G = D_{2n} = \langle x, y | x^2 = y^n = 1, xyx = y^{-1} \rangle$  and  $H = \{1, x\}$ . Let  $N = \langle y \rangle$ . Let  $\epsilon : N \rightarrow H$  be a function with  $\epsilon(1) = 1$ . Then  $T_\epsilon = \{\epsilon(y^i)y^i | 1 \leq i \leq n\} \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  and all NRTs  $T \in \mathcal{T}(G, H)$  are of this form. Let  $B = \{i \in \mathbb{Z}_n | \epsilon(y^i) = x\}$ . Since  $\epsilon$  is completely determined by the subset  $B$ , we shall denote  $T_\epsilon$  by  $T_B$ . Clearly, the map  $\epsilon(y^i)y^i \mapsto i$  from  $T_\epsilon$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$  is an isomorphism of right loops. So we may identify the right loop  $T_B$  with the right loop  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$  by means of the above isomorphism. From now onward, we shall denote the binary operations of  $T_B$  as well as of  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B$  by  $\circ_B$ . We observe that  $T_\emptyset = N \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ . We obtain following corollaries of Proposition 3.2 and 3.4 respectively.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $n$  be an odd integer. Then there is only one loop transversal in  $\mathcal{T}(D_{2n}, H)$ .*

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $n$  be an even integer. Then there are only two loop transversals in  $\mathcal{T}(D_{2n}, H)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ . For  $B = \emptyset$ ,  $T_B \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ . Assume that  $B \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $B = \{2i - 1 | i \in \mathbb{Z}_n\}$ . In this case,  $B' = \langle 2 \rangle$  and  $B = \langle 2 \rangle + 1$  and  $2j \notin B$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . By Proposition 3.4, each  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_n^B$  is left non-singular. In this case,  $\mathbb{Z}_n^B \cong D_{2(n/2)}$ . If  $\emptyset \neq B \subsetneq \{2i - 1 | i \in \mathbb{Z}_n\}$ , then 1 can not be left non-singular element (otherwise  $2 \in B'$  and  $B' = \{2i | i \in \mathbb{Z}_n\}$ ).  $\square$

Let  $p$  be an odd prime. Choose  $L \in \mathcal{T}(D_{2p}, H)$ , where  $H$  is a subgroup of  $D_{2p}$  of order 2. Then  $L = T_B$  for some  $B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ . By Corollary 3.3 and [2, Theorem 1A, p.249],  $((R_u^{\circ B})^{-1}, I, I)$  are the only principal isotopisms from the principal isotope  $(L_{0,u}, \circ_u)$  to  $(L, \circ_B)$ , where  $u \in L$ ,  $I$  is the identity map on  $L$  and  $x \circ_u y = (R_u^{\circ B})^{-1}(x) \circ_B y$ . Let  $Aff(1, p) = \{f_{\mu,t} : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p | f_{\mu,t}(x) = \mu x + t, \text{ where } \mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\} \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{Z}_p\}$ , the one dimensional affine group. For  $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , let  $f_{\mu,t}(A) = \{\mu a + t | a \in A\}$ . Let  $A' = \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus A$  and  $\mathcal{X}_A = \{f_{\mu,u}(A) | u \notin A\} \cup \{(f_{\mu,u}(A))' | u \in A\}$ . If  $A = \emptyset$ , we define  $\mathcal{X}_A = \{\emptyset\}$ . We have following theorem:

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $L = T_B \in \mathcal{T}(D_{2p}, H)$ . Then  $S \in \mathcal{T}(D_{2p}, H)$  is isotopic to  $L$  if and only if  $S = T_C$ , for some  $C \in \mathcal{X}_B$ .*

*Proof.* As observed in the paragraph below the Proposition 3.4 each  $S \in \mathcal{T}(D_{2p}, H)$  is of the form  $T_C$  and is identified with the right loop  $\mathbb{Z}_p^C$  for a unique subset  $C$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ . Thus we need to prove that  $\mathbb{Z}_p^C$  is isotopic to  $\mathbb{Z}_p^B$  if and only if  $C \in \mathcal{X}_B$ .

Assume that  $B = \emptyset$ . Then  $L \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Since there is exactly one loop transversal in  $\mathcal{T}(D_{2p}, H)$  (Corollary 3.5), we are done in this case. Now, assume that  $B \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $u \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ . Let  $\psi_u$  and  $\rho_u$  be two maps on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  defined by  $\psi_u(x) = x + u$  and  $\rho_u(x) = u - x$  ( $x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ). Note that  $R_u^{\circ B} = \psi_u$  or  $R_u^{\circ B} = \rho_u$  depending on whether  $u \notin B$  or  $u \in B$  respectively. First assume that  $u \in B$ . Then

$$x \circ_u y = \begin{cases} u - x + y & \text{if } y \notin B \\ x + y - u & \text{if } y \in B \end{cases} \quad (3.2)$$

Let  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ . The binary operation  $\circ_u$  on  $L$  and the map  $f_{\mu,u}$  defines a binary operation  $\circ_{f_{\mu,u}}$  on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  so that  $f_{\mu,u}$  is an isomorphism of right loop from  $(\mathbb{Z}_p, \circ_{f_{\mu,u}})$  to  $(L_{0,u}, \circ_u)$ . We observe that

$$x \circ_{f_{\mu,u}} y = f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(f_{\mu,u}(x) \circ_u f_{\mu,u}(y)) = \begin{cases} x + y & \text{if } y \notin C \\ y - x & \text{if } y \in C, \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $C = (\mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}) \setminus f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(B) = \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(B)$ . Thus, the right loop  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  (with respect to  $\circ_{f_{\mu,u}}$ ) is  $\mathbb{Z}_p^{(f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(B))'}$ .

Now, assume that  $u \notin B$ . Then

$$x \circ_u y = \begin{cases} x + y - u & \text{if } y \notin B \\ u - x + y & \text{if } y \in B \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

Then above arguments imply that the map  $f_{\mu,u}$  is an isomorphism of right loops from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^{f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(B)}$  to  $L_{0,u}$ . Thus  $\mathbb{Z}_p^C$  is isotopic to  $\mathbb{Z}_p^B$  if  $C \in \mathcal{X}_B$ .

Conversely, let  $C$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $\mathbb{Z}_p^C$  is isotopic to  $\mathbb{Z}_p^B$ . Let  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) : \mathbb{Z}_p^C \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^B$  be an isotopy which factorizes as  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = (\alpha_1, \beta_1, I)(\gamma, \gamma, \gamma)$ , where  $(\alpha_1, \beta_1, I)$  is a principal isotopy from a principal isotope  $L_1$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^B$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_p^B$  and an isomorphism  $\gamma$  is an isomorphism from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^C$  to  $L_1$ . By a description in the second paragraph of Section 3 and by Corollary 3.3,  $L_1 = (\mathbb{Z}_p^B)_{0,u}$  for some  $u \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  and  $\alpha_1 = (R_u^{\circ B})^{-1}$ ,  $\beta_1 = I$ . We have observed that  $R_u^{\circ B} = \psi_u$  or  $R_u^{\circ B} = \rho_u$  according as  $u \notin B$  or  $u \in B$  respectively. Then the binary operation on  $L_1$  is given by (4.2). Since  $\gamma$  is an isomorphism from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^C$  to  $L_1$ ,

$$R_y^{\circ C} = \gamma^{-1} R_{\gamma(y)}^{\circ u} \gamma \quad (3.5)$$

Assume that  $u \in B$ . If  $\gamma(y) \notin B$ , then  $R_{\gamma(y)}^{\circ u} = \rho_{u+\gamma(y)}$  and if  $\gamma(y) \in B$ , then  $R_{\gamma(y)}^{\circ u} = \psi_{\gamma(y)-u}$ . Since conjugate elements have same order,  $\gamma^{-1} \rho_{u+\gamma(y)} \gamma = \rho_y$  or  $\gamma^{-1} \psi_{\gamma(y)-u} \gamma = \psi_y$  according as  $\gamma(y) \notin B$  or  $\gamma(y) \in B$  respectively. Further, assume that  $\gamma(y) \in B$ . Then  $\gamma(x+y) = \gamma(x) + \gamma(y) - u$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Observe that  $\gamma(0) = u$ . By induction, we obtain that

$$\gamma(x) = (\gamma(1) - \gamma(0))x + u. \quad (3.6)$$

Now, assume that  $\gamma(y) \notin B$ . Then  $\gamma(y-x) = \gamma(y) - \gamma(x) + u$ , equivalently,  $\gamma(x+y) = \gamma(y+x) = \gamma(y) - \gamma(-x) + u$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Observe that  $\gamma(0) = u$  and  $\gamma(1) + \gamma(-1) = 2u$ . By induction, we again obtain that

$$\gamma(x) = (\gamma(1) - \gamma(0))x + u. \quad (3.7)$$

Now, assume that  $u \notin B$ . Then, by the similar arguments used above we obtain the same formula that in (4.6) and (4.7) for  $\gamma$ .

Since  $\gamma(1) \neq \gamma(0)$ , we can write  $\gamma(x) = \mu x + u$ , where  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$  and  $u \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Thus, as argued in the first part of the proof

$$C = \begin{cases} f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(B) & \text{if } u \notin B \\ \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus f_{\mu,u}^{-1}(B) & \text{if } u \in B \end{cases}$$

□

We need following definition for its use in the next theorem :

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  denote a permutation group on a finite set  $X$ . Let  $|X| = m$ . For  $\sigma \in \mathcal{G}$ , let  $b_k(\sigma)$  denote the number of  $k$ -cycles in the disjoint cycle decomposition of  $\sigma$ . Let  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  denote the polynomial ring in indeterminates  $x_1, \dots, x_m$ . The *cyclic index*  $P_{\mathcal{G}}(x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  is defined to be

$$P_{\mathcal{G}}(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{G}|} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}} x_1^{b_1(\sigma)} \dots x_m^{b_m(\sigma)}$$

(see [4, p. 146]).

Since  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is a vector space over the field  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , we get an action of  $Aff(1, p)$  on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  and so, it is a permutation group on the set  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Let us calculate the cyclic index  $P_{Aff(1, p)}(x_1, \dots, x_p)$  of  $Aff(1, p)$ . One can check that the formula we obtain is equal to that in [6, Theorem 3, p. 144].

**Lemma 3.8.** *The cyclic index of the affine group  $Aff(1, p)$  is*

$$P_{Aff(1, p)}(x_1, \dots, x_p) = \frac{1}{p(p-1)} (x_1^p + p \sum_d \Phi(d) x_1 x_d^{\frac{p-1}{d}} + (p-1)x_p)$$

where the sum runs over the divisors  $d \neq 1$  of  $p-1$  and  $\Phi$  is the Euler's phi function.

*Proof.* We recall that for  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $f_{\mu, t} \in Aff(1, p)$  defined by  $f_{\mu, t}(x) = \mu x + t$ . We divide the members of  $Aff(1, p)$  into following three disjoint sets

- (a)  $C_0 = \{I = \text{the identity map on } \mathbb{Z}_p\}$
- (b)  $C_1 = \{f_{\mu, t} | \mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}, \mu \neq 1, t \in \mathbb{Z}_p\}$
- (c)  $C_2 = \{f_{1, t} | t \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}\}$

There are  $p(p-2)$  elements in the set  $C_1$ . By [6, Lemma 2, p. 143], we note that if  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}, \mu \neq 1, t \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , then  $f_{\mu, t}$  and  $f_{\mu, 0}$  has same cycle type. We note that  $K = \{f_{\mu, 0} | \mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p-1}$  and if  $f_{\mu, 0} \in K$  is of order  $l$ , then  $f_{\mu, 0}$  is a product of  $\frac{p-1}{l}$  disjoint cycles of length  $l$  and there are  $\Phi(l)$  such permutations in  $K$  of order  $l$ . Also, each element in the set  $C_1$  fixes

exactly one element. Order of each element in the set  $C_2$  is  $p$  and there are  $p - 1$  such elements. Thus, we obtain the cyclic index of  $Aff(1, p)$  to be

$$\frac{1}{p(p-1)}(x_1^p + p \sum_d \Phi(d)x_1x_d^{\frac{p-1}{d}} + (p-1)x_p)$$

□

**Theorem 3.9.** *Let  $D_{2p}$  denote the finite dihedral group ( $p$  an odd prime) and  $H$  be a subgroup of order 2. Then  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_{2p}, H)| = \frac{P_{Aff(1,p)}(2, \dots, 2)}{2}$ .*

*Proof.* By the Theorem 3.7, we see that the set  $\mathcal{X}_B$  ( $B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ ) determines the isotopy classes in  $\mathcal{T}(D_{2p}, H)$ . This means that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_{2p}, H)| = |\{\mathcal{X}_B | B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}\}|$ . The action of  $Aff(1, p)$  on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  induces an action  $'*$  of  $Aff(1, p)$  on the power set of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . This action preserves the size of each subset of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . We note that two subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of same size are in the same orbit of the action  $*$  if and only if  $B = \mu A + j$  for some  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$  and  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . We observe that for a non-empty subset  $B$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}_B$  contains the sets of size  $|B|$  as well as of size  $p - |B|$ . This means that it is sufficient to describe  $\mathcal{X}_B$  by the set  $B$  such that  $|B| \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$ . Therefore, by [4, Theorem 5.1, p. 157; Example 5.18, p.160] and Lemma 3.8, we see that  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_{2p}, H)| = |\{\mathcal{X}_B | B \subseteq D_{2p}\}| = \frac{P_{Aff(1,p)}(2, \dots, 2)}{2}$ . □

**Example 3.10.** *We list  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_{2p}, H)|$  for  $p = 3, 5, 7$ , where  $H$  is subgroup of  $D_{2p}$  of order 2.*

1.  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_6, H)| = 2$ . We have already calculated this in Example 2.3.
2.  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_{10}, H)| = 3$ .
3.  $|\mathcal{Itp}(D_{14}, H)| = 5$ .

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